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NEWSLETTER

February 2019

Reaching children at home or in school: new reports on SIEF studies

A SIEF-supported randomized control trial of an eight-week parenting program for poor families in Chile found large gains in children's vocabularies and in social-emotional development three years after the program ended, in addition to improvements in the quality of children's home environments and parents' nurturing practices. Read the [new working paper](#) published by the research team.



SIEF-supported researchers have published [two papers](#) related to their ongoing evaluation of the impact of a government program in Cambodia that aimed to expand access to preschools by building new facilities and promoting the importance of early childhood education with parents. Building community preschools led to a seven percentage point (or approximately 10 percent) increase in preschool attendance and led households to switch their children out of informal and state-run preschools. In addition, the results from [an earlier study of preschools](#) in Cambodia, also financed by SIEF, were published in the peer-reviewed [Journal of Human Resources](#).

Events

Improving “last-mile” public service delivery is a recurring challenge in developing countries. Can mobile phones provide a simple, cost-effective means for improving services delivery? In a seminar at the World Bank on February 14, the SIEF-supported research team [discussed](#) their at-scale evaluation of a phone-based monitoring system of a program that transferred nearly a billion dollars to 5.7 million farmers in India.



The monitoring program, which was reviewed in a recent [Evidence to Policy note](#), was

highly cost-effective, costing 3.6 cents for each additional dollar delivered.

This evaluation is part of SIEF's new ["nimble" evaluations portfolio](#).

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